



Mt. Charleston Town Advisory Board



MINUTES **MT. CHARLESTON TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Members Present: Becky Grismanauskas, Pat Fitzgibbons, Michael McGroarty,

Members absent: Curtis Alexander, George Togliatti

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was posted in conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town Board members, County, State, Federal Government representatives, Public Utilities and Public Services representatives introduced themselves.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

The agenda for February 10, 2011 was approved.

The minutes for January 27, 2011 approval was tables till next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Michael Whelihan, manager from Spring Mountain Youth Camp. He gave a little history about how the youth camp helps Mt. Charleston. They have been on Angel Peak for 40 years. In 2010 they had 257 boys and 93 boys at the halfway house. These children are serious problem children. They have a 7.5 million dollar budget per year. They give back around 20,000 dollars in restitution, 14,000 hours in volunteer hours to the summer forestry program and 3000 staff hours. All this is to maintain the trails on Mt. Charleston and trash removal help with community services. They will even come and do snow

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removal. This helps and means a lot to the children. They work with NDF, BLM, Metro and help with the local charities like the fall festival at Lundy Elementary.

Pat Fitzgibbons also thanked Lundy elementary, CC Library, NDF, and Metro for their support.

Jorge Gonzalez, NDF Fire. NDF works with Clark Co. Fire, Metro, NDOT, and VDF. Everyone is aware the Governor is proposing to phase out the stations on Mt. Charleston. Starting 2012, they will not respond to medical, auto, or structural fires. They will be seasonal wild land fire until 2014. Then all responsibility will be turned over to Clark Co. Fire.

Mike Johnson, Clark Co. Fire, said this is only a proposal right now. If this proposal goes thru then Clark Co. will have to conduct an analysis of the situation.

Kim Otero, Nevada Fire Safety Council, stated at the last visitors task force meeting they learned the news of the proposed closure of the NDF station. This is very alarming. The Fire Safety Counsel has the power of grass root lobbyist and the power of all the other chapters to help rally support. Then Kim Otero showed a power point presentation. The presentation went over the staffing and type of engines at NDF currently. These are a type 1 engine (structure & Wildland) with added hoses and water, 6 permanent positions. Clark Co. Fire does not service wild land fires.

The Benefits are we have all risk protection that can respond to any situation. The budget also provides money for fuel reduction. This would have a negative impact on the Defensible space program. The field crews are from the inmate program at the prison. NDF is the center of the interagency coordination.

In 2010 there were 280 calls consisting of medical, fire and auto.

NRS 473.050- basically says our property tax on the mountain has the majority of the funding built into the tax. Our funding is supplemented by Clark County. The operating budget is \$887,679.00. Mt. Charleston tax base is \$440,759.00. Consolidated tax contributes \$115,000.00 and the General County tax contributes \$331,934.00. The state pays \$130,350.00, which \$56,000 goes to funding Minden Dispatch. Which is slated to close if this budget passes Minden Dispatch will be closing also. If Clark County Fire has to come on the mountain, they would bring a type 1 engine outfitted for structure fires only, 4 personnel per shift. It would cost Clark County \$2,231,872.00 dollars per year.

Pastor Earl Green (Mt. Charleston Baptist Church), retired CCFD Chief, stated that NDF saved his church 20 years ago. They are very valuable. He believes that it looks like the governor is trying to make cuts across the board. That maybe the Governor thinks NDF is not really for structural fires just for wild land fires. The Governor is looking at the dollars and cents. They are even cutting from the budgets of the programs for the elderly and children (i.e. Spring Mt. Youth Camp) we need to have passion and attack in a very determined and organized way. The argument needs to be based on facts. There is politics in this so we need to be united and focused.

COMMUNITY QUESTION –

Q. If there is no emergency service available who will service the mountain?

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A. After 2012 any issue will be station 81 VDF or units from Las Vegas. You will be looking at a 35 to 45 min response time.

Dave Jacks asked can we trim our budget back in?

A. In the proposed budget it is all of NDF not just here on the mountain.

Brian Johnson stated he drove from town and it took approximately 40 min. to get here. He can only imagine what the response time would be if it were winter. The 1st responder would take too long if there were medical or fire calls.

Skip Mitchell agrees with Pastor Green. We need to stay focused. There are a lot of far reaching implications like home insurance rates will go up, and possibly down the road they may take metro off the mountain as well.

Michael Whelihan brings his children to the mountain and thinks we are under estimating really what NDF does. The incidents are tremendous. Realistically about an hour to an hour and a half is the difference between life and death. It is not just calls they respond to it is also the year round prevention they provide.

Mike Johnson stated that the state gave a onetime grant to order 2 new engines that NDF has been trying to get for years. The new engines will be here 2 months before this plan goes into effect. The engines will be sent somewhere else.

Fish and Wildlife has cut the budget and are still active. There is also a 4196 account that covers things where extra money is needed. This is viewable to the public. If the closure goes through, that money just goes away.

Dennis (from Rainbow Subdivision) asked if \$56000 is for dispatch does NDF get dispatched thru them?

A. Clark County does most of the dispatching for NDF. The only use Minder for Wildland fire.

Jeff Andersen- If they close this station will it save any money? To my knowledge it will not.

Jorge Gonzalez answered- I don't have the facts on that and cannot answer and was also instructed to not talk to the Media. All questions need to be asked to Pete Anderson, State Forester.

Thomas (GM at Mt. Charleston Lodge) asked "What is one life is worth?" This summer NDF responded to 3 heart attack patients and saved their lives.

Charles (Chef at The Resort on Mt. Charleston) in 2 years NDF has saved 4 lives and that is worth millions.

Ms. Harpster (Head teacher at Lundy Elementary) in the 5 years she has been here NDF has done so much for the school. They come every month and teach fire safety to the children and they saved her life and her home in October of 2010 when the house right next door burnt down.

The manager from the Ski Resort stated adding more not taking away. They have over a 100000 visitors in the winter. The Ski Resort is here to help, only need to ask.

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Tom Padden stated tonight is not the end and NFSC has formed a committee to do the fact finding. They have brought form letters for everyone to sign and sent to the Governor, County Commissioners offices.

Mike McGroarty state that the arena is going to be in the Legislature. There is 171 days left. Contact the people who represent you and let them know your concerns. You can contact them via email and the internet. You can send your comments.

Becky Grismanauskas stated we have it good on Mt. Charleston. It is hard work to live on the mountain. It is hard to get emotional but we have to stay focused. We cannot win this battle if we let our emotions rule. This is very emotional for all of us. If we stick together we can do a lot of good. It is critical to send the form letters out to the community and have them send them to our representatives and the Governor's office. Send as many letters as you can.

Pat Fitzgibbons stated it is the Desire of the Board to send a letter from the Town Board to the Governor's office. The board approved the letter.

Pat Fitzgibbons stated that if it is just the VDF to rely on then during the week there is no one to respond for fire or medical. All the volunteers have jobs and there is no one to staff the station 24/7.

Local News Channels 3, 5, 8. And 13 were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – No reports were given at this meeting

TOWN ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Roads – No Report

Public Response – No report

Kyle Canyon Water District – No Report

Fire Protection District – No Report

License Plate – No Report.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

Set Next Meeting Date. There is no Special Call meeting. The next regular meeting will be *Thursday, February 24, 2011.*

The meeting was adjourned 8:26 pm.

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